

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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PA-01 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 IO-13 /116 W
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R 131601Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6701
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y(SUMMARY: LINE 5 CORRECTED)

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS-1
TAGS: PGOV, BQG
SUBJECT: QUADRIpartite LUNCHEON MEETING ON BERLIN

SUMMARY: THE MARCH 10 QUADRIpartite LUNCH MEETING
(VAN WELL, WRIGHT, BRUNET, CHARGE) CONSIDERED A NUMBER
OF BERLIN-RELATED MATTERS, NOTABLY CURRENT
SOVIET POLICY, THE JENKINS VISIT, THE PROPOSED STOBBE
VISIT TO MOSCOW, AND STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE BUNDESRAT
PRESIDENCY. THE CHARGE SUGGESTED THERE MAY BE A
SPECIAL ABRASIMOV FACTOR IN RUSSIAN ACTIONS IN AND ON
BERLIN WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN ESTIMATES OF
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RUSSIAN INTENTIONS. BECAUSE OF ABRASIMOV'S PERSONAL
ROLE IN THE QA NEGOTIATIONS, HE PERHAPS FELT HIMSELF
UNDER PRESSURE TO BE ACTIVE AND SEEM TO "DELIVER" ON
BERLIN. ON THE JENKINS VISIT, VAN WELL SAID VON
DOHNANYI PLANS TO SEE JENKINS THIS WEEK IN BRUSSELS AND
WOULD UNDERLINE THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE BERLIN-EC ISSUE.
VAN WELL CONFIRMED OTHER REPORTS THAT STOBBE IS TAKING

A CAUTIOUS LINE ABOUT HIS PROPOSED VISIT TO MOSCOW. REGARDING STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY, VAN WELL SAID THE FRG HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE RUSSIANS PLAN TO MAKE STOBBE'S ROLE A MAJOR ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. STOBBE VISIT TO MOSCOW. VAN WELL CONFIRMED THAT MAYOR STOBBE INTENDS TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE VISIT. THERE WERE MANY POSSIBLE POLITICAL PITFALLS IN IT. STOBBE HAD MADE CLEAR TO ABRASIMOV AND FALIN THAT HE HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING ANYTHING OCCUR THAT MIGHT DAMAGE HIS POLITICAL STANDING. VAN WELL COMMENTED THAT FALIN'S DISCUSSION OF THE VISIT WITH STOBBE SUGGESTED THAT HE (FALIN) AT LEAST DOES NOT SEE STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE BUNDESRAT PRESIDENCY AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE. FALIN'S REMARK THAT IT WOULD BE BEST IF STOBBE WENT TO MOSCOW BEFORE TAKING OVER THE PRESIDENCY SUGGESTS THE RUSSIANS ACCEPT THE INEVITABILITY OF STOBBE'S ROLE. UK AMBASSADOR WRIGHT SAID THAT EVEN IF THIS WERE SO, IT DID NOT MEAN THAT THE RUSSIANS WOULD NOT KICK UP A FUSS.

2. BAVARIAN EXHIBITION IN MOSCOW. VAN WELL SAID THE FRG HAD RUN INTO PROBLEMS ABOUT A PAMPHLET ON THE FRG AT THE EXHIBITION WHICH, THE RUSSIANS CHARGED, INCLUDED STATISTICS ON WEST BERLIN IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGEST THAT IT WAS PART OF THE FRG. THERE WERE ABOUT 80,000 PAMPHLETS IN STOCK AND, BECAUSE OF SOVIET OBJECTIONS (CONVEYED TO WIECK BY BONDARENKO), THE GERMANS THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE TO PULP THEM. FALIN INTERVENED, HOWEVER, AND THEY WERE ABLE TO USE THE PAMPHLETS AT THE EXHIBITION AFTER ALL. AS A RETURN CONCESSION, VAN WELL SAID, THE FRG WOULD MAKE IT CLEAR IN A PLANNED NEW EDITION OF THE PAMPHLET THAT BERLIN STATISTICS WERE SEPARATE FROM DATA ON THE FRG PROPER.

3. JENKINS VISIT TO BERLIN. VAN WELL SAID THAT FON OFF MINISTER OF STATE VON DOHNANYI PLANS TO SEE JENKINS THIS WEEK IN BRUSSELS TO UNDERLINE THE SENSITIVITIES OF THE BERLIN-EC ISSUE. JENKINS' SPEECH WOULD BE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, BUT THERE WAS THE CHANCE OF PRESS CONFERENCE QUESTIONS, PARTICULARLY ON EC ELECTION MATTERS, THAT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. VAN WELL SAID HE WAS SURE THAT JENKINS WAS AWARE OF THE SENSITIVITIES. HE DID NOT THINK THERE WOULD BE A MAJOR PROBLEM.

4. EC TEXTILE AGREEMENTS. THIS PRODUCED THE MOST DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE MEETING. VAN WELL SAID HE

LIKED THE LATEST BRITISH SUGGESTION FOR INCLUDING WEST
BERLIN BY GIVING A LIST OF THE TERRITORIES COVERED BY
THE AGREEMENT, AND THE GERMANS WOULD CONTINUE TO STUDY
THE BRITISH PROPOSAL FAVORABLY. VAN WELL AGREED IT WOULD
NOT BE HELPFUL TO MOVE IN THE DIRECTION OF A BERLIN

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R 131601Z MAR 78
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CLAUSE, AS SUCH. WRIGHT STRESSED THAT THE BRITISH
PROPOSAL WAS A FALLBACK POSITION, IN CASE THE HUNGARIANS
PROBED FURTHER. VAN WELL REJOINED THAT THE HUNGARIANS
WANT TO MENTION WEST BERLIN, BUT THE FRG BELIEVED THERE
SHOULD BE NO EXCLUSIVE MENTION OF WEST BERLIN BUT RATHER
A REFERENCE TO TERRITORIES, AMONG THEM WEST BERLIN.
IT WAS AGREED THE MATTER SHOULD BE STUDIED FURTHER
BY THE BONN GROUP.

5. STOBBE AS BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT. FRENCH AMBASSADOR
BRUNET ASKED IF THE FRG HAD RESEARCHED THE PRECEDENTS
FOR THE MAYOR OF BERLIN ASSUMING THE PRESIDENCY. VAN

WELL SAID THEY HAD BEEN WORKING ON IT. ANY WRITTEN DOCUMENTS STOBBE SIGNED WOULD BE DATELINED BONN, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEN HE CARRIED OUT OFFICIAL ACTS, THAT WOULD BE IN BONN ALSO. VAN WELL THEN REFERRED TO FALIN'S MEETING WITH STOBBE AND BAHR (SEE PARA 1 ABOVE). HE STRESSED THAT STOBBE AND BAHR HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT STOBBE'S ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESIDENCY IS A FACT OF LIFE. VAN WELL SAID THE GERMANS HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL BUILD THE MATTER UP TO A MAJOR ISSUE. WRIGHT ASKED IF THE FACT THAT THERE WILL BE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN THE FRG DURING STOBBE'S TENURE AS BUNDESRAT PRESIDENT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. HE ASKED IF, FOR INSTANCE, THERE COULD BE A GAP BETWEEN THE OUTGOING AND INCOMING PRESIDENT DURING WHICH STOBBE WOULD BE ACTING FEDERAL PRESIDENT. VAN WELL SAID THERE IS NO PROVISION FOR A GAP OF THIS KIND IN GERMAN PRACTICE. WRIGHT SAID THE RUSSIANS MIGHT STILL MAKE A FUSS ABOUT STOBBE'S ROLE, AND IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MAKE SURE WE DID NOT GIVE THEM UNNECESSARY OPPORTUNITIES IN THIS REGARD.

6. SOVIET POLICY ON BERLIN. BRUNET ALLUDED TO THE LEAKS ON HIS LAST MEETING WITH ABRASIMOV. HIS AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN EXERCISED OVER THE LEAKS, AS HE HAD HIMSELF, BUT THERE HAD BEEN ONE FAVORABLE RESULT. ABRASIMOV HAD REAFFIRMED THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE FULLY COMMITTED TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. THERE WAS ENSUING DISCUSSION ON CURRENT RUSSIAN ATTITUDES AND MOVES IN AND CONCERNING BERLIN. THE CHARGE SAID HE THOUGHT THERE IS AN "ABRASIMOV FACTOR" THAT WE SHOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IN WEIGHING SOVIET ACTIONS. ABRASIMOV HAD NEGOTIATED THE QA. HE HAD A PERSONAL COMMITMENT TO IT, AND HE IS PROBABLY HELD RESPONSIBLE IN SOME MEASURE BY HIS PRINCIPALS FOR WHAT HAS HAPPENED PURSUANT TO THE QA. IN THIS SENSE HE PROBABLY FEELS UNDER CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE, AND IT MAY BE THAT INCREASED

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RUSSIAN PROTESTS AND ACTIVISM AS IN PATROL ACTIVITY IN WEST BERLIN ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO ABRASIMOV'S PERSONAL NEED TO MAKE A GOOD RECORD.

7. GEISEL VISIT TO BERLIN. VAN WELL SAID THE GDR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MOLDT HAD CALLED IN THE BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN AND SAID THE GEISEL

VISIT REPRESENTED A VIOLATION OF THE QA. MOLDT ADDED THAT THE EAST GERMANS WILL MAKE A FORMAL DEMARCHE ON THE SUBJECT IN BRASILIA. VAN WELL SAID WE SHOULD BE FIRM IN RESISTING EAST GERMAN PRETENSIONS TO RULE ON QA MATTERS. THE GERMANS WERE THINKING OF PLANNING FOR THIS CONTINGENCY IN FUTURE HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OR HEAD OF STATE VISITS TO WEST BERLIN BY GIVING THE VISITING STATE ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE PROBLEM AND ALSO POSSIBLE LANGUAGE WITH WHICH TO DEAL WITH EVENTUAL GDR PROTESTS. VAN WELL SUGGESTED THE BONN GROUP STUDY THE MATTER FURTHER.

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R 131601Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO USMISSION USBERLIN
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BRUNET NOTED THAT THERE HAD SO FAR BEEN NO RUSSIAN PROTEST ON THE GEISEL VISIT (HE HAD APPARENTLY NOT BEEN INFORMED OF KHOTULEV'S MARCH 7 DEMARCHE (US BERLIN 562)). VAN WELL SHOWED THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM FOR THE GEISEL VISIT WHICH HAD AN ANNEX DEALING WITH THE PROGRAM OF "LAND BERLIN". THE COVER OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAM DID NOT REFER TO BERLIN IN ANY WAY. VAN WELL

THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE OPTICALLY BETTER TO REFER TO THE ANNEX ON THE COVER PAGE AS A WAY OF NOTING THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN BERLIN AND THE FRG PROPER. BRUNET THOUGHT THIS A GOOD IDEA.

8. RUSSIAN PROTESTS ON BERLIN MATTERS. VAN WELL NOTED WHAT HE CONSIDERED A HARDENING OF RUSSIAN LANGUAGE IN CONFIDENTIAL

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PROTESTING ALLEGED QA VIOLATIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE POINT THE RUSSIANS HAMMER ON THAT WHAT IS NOT PERMITTED EXPLICITLY IN THE QA IS PROHIBITED. HE CHARGE SAID THE "ABRASIMOV FACTOR" SEEMED RELEVANT IN THIS CONNECTION. HE ASKED IF THE RUSSIANS HAD USED THE FORMULATION THAT WHAT IS NOT EXPLICITLY PERMITTED IS PROHIBITED IN FORMAL PROTESTS. VAN WELL THOUGHT THE FORMULATION HAD BEEN USED IN WRITTEN FORM BUT DID NOT GIVE SPECIFICS. WRIGHT SAID THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT CRITERIA IN CONSIDERING RUSSIAN PROTESTS, OR RATHER ALLIED RESPONSES TO SUCH PROTEST. THE FIRST IS THAT WE SHOULD BE SURE TO MAINTAIN ALLIED RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES. THE SECOND IS THAT OUR PROTESTS SHOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF REASSURING THE BERLIN POPULATION IN THEIR SITUATION AND IN ALLIED SUPPORT FOR THEM. WRIGHT SAID WE HAVE A GOOD RECORD OF SATISFYING BOTH CRITERIA. HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF THE VALUE OF INCREASING THE STRENGTH OF THE LANGUAGE AND TONE OF ALLIED RESPONSES. WRIGHT THOUGHT THAT IF WE WENT IN THIS DIRECTION, IT MIGHT HAVE THE EFFECT OF SEEMING TO INCREASE TENSIONS IN BERLIN AND THUS DO THE RUSSIANS A SERVICE, RATHER THAN ACCOMPLISHING ANY POSITIVE RESULTS. BRUNET OBSERVED THAT WE MIGHT THINK OF PROTESTING MORE OURSELVES OVER RUSSIAN VIOLATIONS OF THE STATUS OF BERLIN. WE DID NOT LIKE TO ENGAGE IN THIS KIND OF EXERCISE BECAUSE IT WAS STERILE AND BORING, BUT PERHAPS WE SHOULD TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE MATTER.

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PGOV, UR, GE, BQG, (STOBBE), (JENKINS)
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